

Comparison of Services in High School and College

There is no Special Education at the college level. Educational rights covered by IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act) do not apply to postsecondary education. Colleges must comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act. College students have civil rights, but no “education” rights.

Postsecondary institutions are required to:

- Make all programs and services accessible to all students
- Provide auxiliary aids, notetakers, and appropriate equipment to ensure the participation of students with disabilities in college classes and activities

High School

- The school is responsible for identifying students with disabilities
- The school must provide the assessment of disability, classify disability, and involve parents
- School staff will discuss academic progress with parents or legal guardians
- The school must develop an Individualized Educational Program
- The school must provide free and appropriate education including a modified program and appropriate related services
- The school must coordinate the provision of all services, monitor progress, and evaluate results

Differences in Courses High School

- Class attendance is mandatory and monitored carefully
- Teachers will usually approach students who are having academic difficulties
- Teachers will provide students with missed information when they are absent
- Teachers many times will provide extra credit assignments to help students raise their grades
- Make-up tests are usually available
- Teachers present information to help the student understand the textbook

Differences in Accommodations High School

- The college must provide reasonable accommodations for students who qualify
- Services include individually designed instruction, modifications, and accommodations based on the IEP
- Modifications that change course outcomes may be offered based on the IEP
- Appropriate accommodations are determined by the student’s Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)
- Appropriate accommodations must be determined based on the student’s disability documentation, and

individual needs Differences in Parent's or Legal Guardian's Role High School College

- Legal guidance is provided by IDEA
- Parents must ensure that their child attends school until the age of 16
- Periodic progress reports are given to parents
- Teachers are free to approach parents without consent from the student to discuss the student's progress
- The parent is the student's legal guardian
- The parent is expected to advocate for the student

College

- The student must self-identify or disclose his/her disability
- The student must provide documentation of his/her disability to the designated office
- The student is considered an adult with privacy and confidentiality protections. Staff cannot talk with parents or legal guardians about the student's academic progress
- The student must request specific accommodations and provide supporting evidence through documentation
- The student must act as independent adults to activate and obtain accommodations and structure weekly schedules
- Students are expected to follow the instructors' attendance policy as stated in the syllabus
- Students are responsible to ask the instructor for help
- Teachers remind students of assignment due dates
- Students are responsible for keeping track of their projects, assignments, and tests dates
- Students must approach their instructors for information they missed when absent
- Extra credit assignments are not usually given
- Make-up tests may not be an option
- Instructors may not follow the textbook, but lectures enhance the topic
- Reasonable accommodations may be made to provide equal access and participation
- The college is not required to lower or effect substantial modifications to essential requirements.
- Legal guidance is provided by Section 504 and ADA
- Parents are not required to send a child to college
- No progress reports will be given to parents
- Without a release of information signed by the student the teacher legally cannot include the parents in any part of the educational process

- In college the student is considered to be his/her own legal guardian unless there is a court order to the contrary
- The student is expected to advocate on his/her own behalf